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NEWS FROM YOUR NORTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1977

Greetings from your North Dakota Chess Association. This brief newsletter is being mailed to all persons who have been members of the United States Chess Association in the past year or so. All USCF members are automatically members of NDCA. The chess "season" is about to begin, and one point of this newsletter is to alert you to upcoming tournament activities (see the schedule below, and especially the announcements on the North Dakota Open Oct. 15-16 and the North Dakota Scholastic Championship Dec. 16-17). A reminder, too, that new officers of NDCA will be elected during the Open. Another item reports on the status of NDCA finances. And still another puts in a plug for postal chess. Before getting into the "news," however, please consider this NDCA appeal: RENEW YOUR USCF MEMBERSHIP! Figures from national headquarters reveal that a large number of North Dakota chess players have allowed their USCF dues to lapse. Here's a bargain: If you rejoin through NDCA you qualify for a lower rate! The special rate for regular membership (usually $15) is $12; for junior membership, under age 19 at date of expiration, is $6 (instead of $8); and junior participating (no magazine) is $2 (rather than $2.50). Send your check, USCF number if you have one (even if expired), address, and birth date to Dave Vorland-NDCA, 2212 10th Ave. N., Grand Forks, ND 58201.

Attention junior and senior high school students! The 8th Annual North Dakota Scholastic Championship will be held Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17 at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Plan now to attend this six-round event, which again will be broken into two sections: High School for grades 10-12 and Junior High School for grades 7-9. If your school club is inactive, or if your school doesn't have a club, get organized now. Hint: math instructors usually are happy to be chess club advisers. Any number of players can enter from a school, even a single player (although only the top four scores count in determining team champions). Players from the same school will not be paired against each other. Special motel room rates are being arranged near the campus. Information on this, and other tournament details, will be mailed to schools and to junior USCF members before the tournament and will be publicized in Chess Life & Review. Here are the basic facts: Entry fee $4 ($3 if paid in advance) for high schoolers; $3 ($2 if paid in advance) for junior high schoolers. Both sections are USCF rated with a time control of 30 moves per hour. Team trophies to first and runnerup in each section. Individual champions receive trophies and scholarships ($100 for high school, $75 for junior high school). Top six finishers in each section receive USCF gift certificates. All players will be mailed an official tournament crosstable. Other prizes possible, depending upon number of entries. Tournament committee consists of Dave Vorland, president of NDCA, Grand Forks; Abe Thompson, USCF Regional Vice President and former Fargo South chess adviser, Fargo; and Craig Nansen, director of the 1974-1976 tournaments and Minot High chess adviser. Co-sponsor with NDCA is UND President Tom Clifford. Contact for information is Dave Vorland, 2212 10th Ave. N., Grand Forks, ND 58201 (phone 775-0480 home, 777-2731 office).

The North Dakota Chess Association is not a "rich" organization, at least as far as money goes. Our affiliation with the United States Chess Federation was paid this year by the great friend of NDCA, Abe Thompson of Fargo. This newsletter was funded by the University of North Dakota as part of its commitment to the 1977 Scholastic Championships. Our one real asset (in addition to our members, of course!) is the NDCA Scholarship Fund. The account trustee is Abe Thompson of Fargo, who reports that the fund contained $748.44 as of July 1, 1977. Liabilities against the fund include $637.50 in outstanding scholarships won by the following persons in North Dakota Scholastic tournaments: Kent Parker, $100; R. Tollefson, $25; Steve Erk, $175; John Meisner, $112.50; Erik Knutson, $125; Dale Kunnanz, $50; and Randy Pfeifenbring, $50. Income to the Fund comes from the Scholastic (which has lost money the past two years); from the 5 percent "tax" paid into the Fund on tournament revenue by some, but not all, NDCA organizers; and interest from the savings account in which the money is held. Scholarships can be redeemed only when the winner has enrolled in a post-secondary school, college or university.

13TH NORTH DAKOTA OPEN

North Dakota's biggest tournament! To be played at NDSU Memorial Union, Fargo on Oct. 15-16. $1,425 prize list, based on 90 entries (exceeded the past several years)! Entry fee $20, full-time students $15 if received by Oct. 14, $3 more at site. Prizes $250-$125-$75; $100-$50 in each class expert through E. $50-$25 unrated (based on six players per class). Five rounds, time control 45/100 rounds 1 & 2, then 45/2. Registration ends 9:30 a.m., rounds 10:30-3-7, 9-3. Separate section for new players and those rated under 1000. NDCA annual meeting at 1:30 Sunday. Some great players will compete, including Mariano Acosta of the Phillipines. But this is also an exciting tournament for lower-rated players. Sleeping bag facilities will be provided. Advance entries to Abe Thompson, 315 S. 7th St., Fargo, ND 58102.

For those of us who live in the Upper Midwest, where chess tournament activity is less frequent and where clubs are widely scattered, POSTAL CHESS is an ideal activity. We can improve our game by playing opponents under tournament conditions in other states, or even in other countries. Many NDCA members play in the Golden Knights and other postal tournaments of the USCF. That's great, but this article puts in a plug for the Chess Correspondence League of America. The official arm of the International Correspondence Chess Federation, CCLA publishes a magazine devoted to postal chess, has an excellent rating system, and provides good service to its members. But don't take your editor's word for it: A sample copy of the magazine, "The Chess Correspondent," is available by writing to Harvey Simms, 153 E. Beech St., Long Beach, NY 11561. If sufficient North Dakotans join CCLA (membership is $10 a year), interest has been expressed in forming a state postal team to take on other groups of organized postal players.

Officers of your North Dakota Chess Association currently are: Dave Vorland, president, (address elsewhere); Tom Wangler, vice president, 203 7th Ave. SW, Mandan, ND 58554; and Dale Kunnanz, secretary-treasurer, 907 N. 29th St., Bismarck, ND 58501. North Dakota United States Chess Federation representatives appointed by the president, include Vorland, delegate; Ronald Schauer, other voting member, Box 714, Mandan, ND 58554; Craig Nansen, alternate voting member, 302 Holiday Village, Minot, ND 58701; Donald Varvel, alternate voting member, 805 N. 43rd St., Apt. E-40, Grand Forks, ND 58201; and Marvin Fjeldseth, alternate voting member, 206 28th Ave. N., Fargo, ND 58101. Abe Thompson, 315 S. 7th St., Fargo, ND 58102, is one of USCF's prestigious regional vice presidents. Feel free to contact any of these NDCA officials if you are interested in helping promote organized chess in North Dakota.

1977-1978 Tournaments are being scheduled. Here is a summary to save for future reference. **Sept. 24: Concordia Quads,** Park Region Club Room, 7th Ave. South at 7th St. in Moorhead, Registration 9-9:30. Entry fee $4, prize of $13 in each four-person section. **Oct. 15-16: North Dakota Open,** Fargo (see separate item). **Nov. 6: Grand Forks Open.** Registration ends at 10 a.m., University Center. Entry fee $4, $3 juniors. Four round Swiss. All revenue, less rating fee, returned as prizes. **Nov. 19: Pre-Turkey Day Tornado,** Bismarck. Contact Ron Schauer (address elsewhere) for details. **Dec. 16-17: North Dakota Scholastic Championships,** Grand Forks (see separate item). **Jan. 21-22 or Jan. 28-29: Bison Winter Open,** Fargo. Contact Abe Thompson (address elsewhere). **Feb. 4-5: Minot Winterfest Tournament.** Contact Craig Nansen (address elsewhere). **March 5: UND Sioux Octos,** Grand Forks. Contact Dave Vorland (address elsewhere). **April 22-23, North Dakota Closed Championship,** Bismarck. Contact Ron Schauer (address elsewhere). Two-day tournaments are also expected to be held early in 1978 at Concordia College (probably in January) and at Moorhead State College (probably in March). Watch Chess Life & Review. Other North Dakota tournaments also may be scheduled.